



Volume 29

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Counterpoise Editor - Sue Robins AF6LJ

ARCEC Repeater Relocation

By Sue Robins AF6LJ, Pictures by Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ

benefactor planned for the installation of their gear in the vault as well.

That day came a couple of weeks later, when we all came together to install antennas and 7/8" hardline SANDRA provided the connectors, and Susan AF6LJ provided the 75' run of hardline. Our Benefactor had a man lift, While our antenna was being installed and I was pulling hardline through the conduit Pat and Dave were putting finishing touches on the rack. The new 220 MHZ amp was installed, DC power and RF cables routed. There were a few hitches, however everything went smoothly except.....

Recently a building on property belonging to our benefactor became available after the wireless telephone company moved out. The building is built to be a radio vault complete with climate control. In late June the three repeaters were moved into this building, and a temporary antenna was erected for our system. This kept the VHF repeater on the air for a couple of weeks while our

ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

2 Meter Repeater	220 MHZ Repeater	440 MHZ Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 222.480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 224.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2

Next Month's Meeting

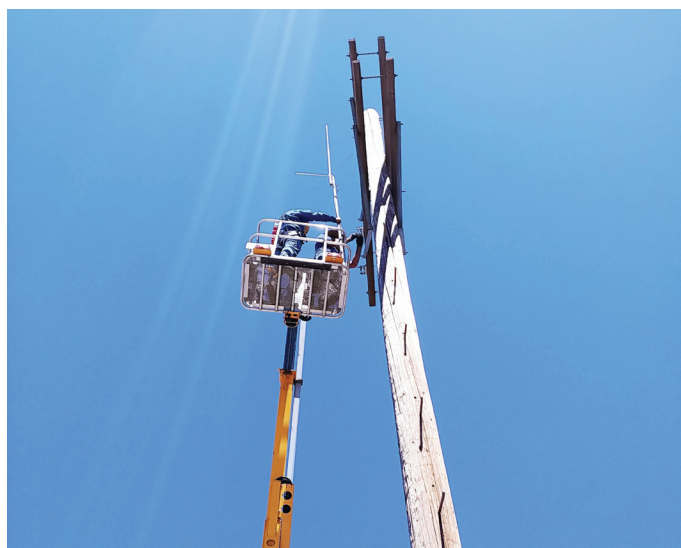
Due to Covid-19 impact; Future meetings of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon will be canceled. Stay tuned for the latest information over at <https://wa6bgs.us>



There was one issue involving our 4 cavity duplexer. As some know our repeater sat in a non climate controlled vault. Without some means to regulate humidity you end up with corrosion in different forms that needs to be dealt with. The problem shown it;s self when a cable was attached to the TX port on the 440 MHZ repeater, when the cable was tightened the connector body broke loose from the housing it was soldered to. I brought the duplexer back to my lab, and began disassembly. Seeing all the surface rust on the steel hardware that was used during assembly, I began building a list of hardware that would need to be purchased.

With new hardware, a smaller torch, materials to practice work began. All the steel hardware was replaced. The four remaining brass screws were fine and did not need replacement. When the previously soldered surfaces were cleaned it became apparent that silver solder was used in assembly. This was a welcome sight as repairs can be made with regular SN-62 Five of the steel screws didn't want to come out, a little PB Blaster, heat and a lady's touch had them coming right out with little effort. I also found some damage from a long time ago, one of the critical length cables on the receive side had a broken shield. The heat shrink covering the broken shield was removed and the shield was sweat soldered back together. After assembly the duplexer was tuned and is ready for service. Stay tuned; more to follow as we upgrade. A big Thank You goes out to the ARCEC technical committee, Our Benefactor, and SANDRA for their efforts.

73, AF6LJ



Above; AF6LJ, KD6DW, and WD6APP hover over just pulled hardline installing a connector. Just below our benefactor installing our antenna.



Above; rear view of the UHF duplexer after repairs

What Members Are Doing During the Lockdown

Before I left for Colorado in June I had our webmaster send out a message to our members to find out what they are doing during the Lockdown I have one submission from our President Pat WA6MHZ. Please share with us what you are doing during the Lockdown send your submissions to counterpoise@wa6bgs.us

MEMBERS!!

as you have heard by now, the PHYSICAL Field Day has been canceled for ARCEC due to the Pandemic scare. Everyone is terrified they will get the DEADLY VIRUS!!!

But we can still play Field Day virtually. Most stations this year will either be SINGLE Entity efforts where a Ham will take all his stuff out to the sticks and set it up. Class 1A (or 1B for battery power only)

We will miss the grand BBQ we have had every year since I joined the club back in 1971! Maybe in 2021 we can do it all normally, but this year we can do it from our HOME SHACKS.

I plan on running class 1D from my house using commercial power. I don't have a fancy generator and the neighbors would have kittens if I ran a Generator all night! IF I could, then it would be Class 1E. If I went up to the Crest Clubhouse and ran the Field Day from there, it would be CLASS 1F which is for EOC stations.

So go ahead and work Field Day Stations from your house and then send in your log so you can make it into QST when the Results come out. SURE going to be many 1D stations!

Look for me on FT8!

Patrick Bunsold WA6MHZ

Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in This and That; are not necessarily those of The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, It's board or It's members. All comments on issues discussed in This & That are welcome and will be published with permission of the author

This & That

By Sue Robins AF6LJ

I have three items I feel strong about discussing. One is an incident that involves me, and two are disturbing trends I see in the local ham community.

Over the top reaction, to a ridiculous statement; A pair incidents on 265 repeater led to me being triggered. Being called a liar by three hams regarding my physical appearance, and genetic make up was a bit more than I was willing to put up with. I let two of them know how I felt using **Midlevel Sailor language, and for that I apologize.** The fact these hams have made such statements without a grain proof was outrageous, and elicited an equally outrageous response.

A lot of MARS Modded radios out there; This is concerning as these radios are type accepted to work only in the Amateur Radio Service. Legally you cannot operate them in any other service. I am not so much concerned with the HF radios, they usually end up on Eleven Meters where they can do little or no harm, the VHF and UHF radios being mars modded are a bit concerning. These modified radios if in the wrong hands can become a weapon to be used against first responders. What reason would you have for a radio like that, except for use as a bench radio. It just doesn't seem like a good idea.

Part 97; Over on the watering hole I usually sit at in the mornings, the radio is on and usually in SCAN. I was surprised to come across a net that was allowing an unidentified station to speak on the net. I am a little concerned over the lack of knowledge regarding Part 97 especially when it comes to 97.3 Definitions. As amateur radio operators we are required to do our due diligence and read the rules. Sometimes what one thinks a word means isn't what the FCC Says it means. These days the FCC rules are written in "Plain Language" that was not always the case. Ask any ham, about how Part 97 read in the old days, complete with all the Legalese.

73,

Sue AF6LJ

Support Our Local Businesses

Now more than ever our local business that support our amateur radio community need your support.



WAMO Net Rebirth

Steve AJ6IT has brought the Wednesday WAMO Net back from its long hibernation. The WAMO Net is a controlled net for members, and non-members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. The net meets every Thursday evening starting with early check-ins at 7:45 PM Pacific time. Come and join us for the WAMO net.

Donut Net

Monday nights after dinner the Donut Net can be found on the ARCEC VHF repeater. Axel KI6RRN hosts a fun filled net with trivia questions and other activities. The net is a great place to spend that after dinner and before prime TV time. Come and join Axel for fun and fellowship with your fellow hams every Monday at 7:00 PM.

Club Shirts & Jackets

We have green, pocketed 2013 Field Day club shirts available in sizes S (2), M (1), and L (8) for \$10 each. Our standard Club Shirts have no pocket and are in sizes M (10), L (4), 2XL (7), 3XL (4), 4XL (5) for \$10 each. Sizes are limited to stock on hand.

Lined Windbreaker Jackets are also available in sizes L (1) and XL (7) for \$24 each. These have side pockets with snap closure.

Membership Badges & Pins

All members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon who might wish to obtain a membership badge can contact Dell Awards and place an order with them. They are our current preferred source for these badges, and have our logo and design on file and ready to create a custom badge for members. Current price is \$7.50 per badge and they have indicated that there is normally a 3 business day turnaround time. These are quality badges made by a long established company, so place yours on order soon. They can be reached at the below address and phone number, and be sure to mention you saw this blurb in the Counterpoise newsletter too.

Dell Awards

7949 Broadway

Lemon Grove, CA 91945

(619) 469-2100

Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am-5:30pm

Sat 10am-1pm

Sun - Closed

Club Pins Now Available:

They have arrived! A limited number of club pins are now here and can be obtained from our Treasurer at most club functions. These are 1" diameter pins with a rubber clutch pin on rear. You can now show the world your support of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, and for the small cost of \$3.00 each too. Get them while they are available.





The **AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF EL CAJON**^{Inc.}
WA6BGS

Post Office Box Fifty, El Cajon California 92022

Founded 1960 ~ Incorporated 1976

Please fill out this form and then see options at bottom for submitting to the club

Date of application: ___ / ___ / ___

Amount Paid: \$ _____ Cash Check Check # _____

Membership Type: Individual (\$20/year) Family* (\$35/year)

Membership Status: New Renewal Returning Member

Call Sign First Name _____ Last Name _____

If a previous member, what was your WAMO number?

ARRL Member: Yes No

License Class: Technician General Extra Other

Email Address (required) _____

Phone Number (optional) _____

**Use another sheet of paper to add Family members and please include the following information:*

First Name, Last Name, Call Sign (if any), License Class, Wamo Number (if any), & Email Address.

Submitting this form:

To submit this form, you can mail it to:

**Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
P.O. Box 50
El Cajon, CA 92022**

-OR-

Bring it to the next club meeting on the second Thursday of each month. You can find the date and location by getting online at www.wa6bgs.us which is the club website. Check it out for the most current information regarding the club.

Cash Payments - Get a receipt from the Club Treasurer. Please make all checks payable to AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of EL CAJON, Incorporated. Receipts for payments by check will be sent by email or regular mail by the Club Treasurer.

Members with an FCC Call Sign are full members with voting privileges. Members without an FCC Call Sign are Associate members without voting privileges.

YOUR DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE: Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Inc. Is a 501 C 7 Corporation. Donations are NOT tax deductible.

Email address and phone number are to allow club officers to contact members regarding club business and information of interest.